

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ONY-00 SSO-00 /030 W  
-----120038 201637Z /41

O 201449Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4532

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4018

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A), SHUM, PINT, UY

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER ROVIRA

THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR APPROVAL AND/OR CORRECTION  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR,  
LISTER, O'MAHONY, DCM, AND CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL SECTION  
YOULE MET WITH FONMIN ROVIRA AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS  
FOR HOUR LONG MEETING MORNING OF AUGUST 18. THE MEETING OPENED  
WITH EXCHANGE OF EXPRESSIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO DIALOGUE  
ON PART OF BOTH TODMAN AND FONMIN ROVIRA, IN PRESENCE OF LARGE  
NUMBER PHOTOGRAPHERS AND JOURNALISTS.

2. WHEN PRESS RETIRED, TODMAN EMPHASIZED THAT: (1) HE HAD COME  
TO UNDERSTAND, FIRST HAND, URUGUAYAN REALITY; (2) HE HAD  
FULL CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR AND MISSION AND THEIR RANGE OF  
CONTACTS, TO WHICH HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE; AND, (3) HE  
HAD COME TO LISTEN TO URUGUAYAN SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW RELATIONS  
COULD BE IMPROVED. TODMAN STRESSED THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS  
IMPEDIMENTS TO IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS, URUGUAYS'S IMAGE  
HAS BEEN BLACKENED BY ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.  
THIS IMAGE, IN TURN, HAS RESULTED IN LEGISLATION WHICH  
LIMITS OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION. HE STRESSED THAT GOU'S NEGATIVE  
IMAGE IS NOT ONLY RESULT OF CAMPAIGN BY PARTISAN GROUPS, BUT  
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RATHER FORMED SUBSTANTIALLY BY INFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY  
RESPECTED SOURCES. URUGUAYANS MUST CHANGE THIS IMAGE, IN  
ORDER THAT WE CAN RETURN TO CLOSE RELATIONS WE BOTH DESIRE.  
WE HAVE NO INTENTION T TELL GOU WHAT TO DO, OR HOW TO DO IT,  
AS THESE ARE THE PREROGATIVES OF A SOVERIGN NATION. HOW-  
EVER, HE STRESSED, WE WISH TO HELP GOU BRING ABOUT CHANGES  
WHICH IT DESIRES.

3. ROVIRA RESPONDED WITH FAMILIAR JUSTIFICATION OF GOU'S POSITION. URUGUAY'S IMAGE, HE STATED, IS RESULT OF SMEAR CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY ITS ENEMIES. THESE ENEMIES REFUSE TO ADMIT DEFEAT, AND URUGUAY REMAINS ENGAGED IN LONG AND CRUEL WAR. THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS COUNTRY WAS FORMED WITH ANOTHER PHILOSOPHY, IN ANOTHER SITUATION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE FORCED TO CHANGE TO AVOID ANOTHER CUBA. GOU DOES NOT WANT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND, IF THERE HAVE BEEN ABUSES, GOU DOES NOT WISH TO REPEAT THEM. HE CONCLUDED THAT URUGUAY MUST GET ITSELF OUT OF THIS SITUATION AND, AS A PROUD AND NATIONALISTIC NATION, IT WILL.

4. TODMAN THEN EMPHASIZED THAT, IN QUESTIONS OF IMAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, U.S. ACCORDS SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC), AND TO HEMISPHERIC HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION.

ROVIRA NOTED THAT URUGUAY HAS HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE WITH IAHRC, AS U.S. KNOWS FROM GRENADA. URUGUAY MUST NOW RESPOND TO AN IAHRC REPORT AND WISHES TO DO SO FULLY AND PRECISELY. HOWEVER, URUGUAY MUST ASK FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE ITS REPLY.

5. TODMAN NOTED THAT WE WISH TO STRENGTHEN THE IAHRC FURTHER WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL. ALVAREZ THEN REPEATED HIS IMPASSIONED AND LENGTHY GRENADA DIATRIBE AGAINST IAHRC, CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARGING IT IS "POLITICIZED AND PARTIAL", AND THAT IT WISHES TO ACT AS BOTH ACCUSER AND JUDGE. HE THEN ARGUES THAT URUGUAY, TODAY, "IS AKIN TO A SICK PERSON SLOWLY RECOVERING FROM A MOST SERIOUS ILLNESS; RETURNING TOO QUICKLY TO NORMAL ROUTINE COULD CAUSE A RELAPSE AND EVEN DEATH." IN ANY CASE, HE DECLARED, THE GOU WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH THE IAHRC UNLESS THAT BODY IS DEPOLITICIZED AND ITS OBJECTIONABLE PRACTICES ELIMINATED.

6. MR. TODMAN THEN RAISED ISSUE OF GOU'S UNRESPONSIVENESS IN OTHER RESPECTS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, SUGGESTING THAT BY ANSWERING ITS MAIL GOU COULD DO MUCH TO CLARIFY NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. WHEN THERE IS NO RESPONSE PEOPLE ASSUME THE WORST. ROVIRA COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT THAT PROVIDING INFORMATION COULD DESTROY GOU'S ABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATION OR DAMAGE ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS. HE CITED THE TAVARES CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER. THE GOU WAS SUFFERING BECAUSE THE MEXICAN GOVT. HAS ASKED IT TO KEEP THE CASE QUIET.

7. PEZZULLO COUNTER THAT, IN TAVARES CASE, IMPACT ON WORLD OPINION WAS GREATER PRECISELY BECAUSE URUGUAY HAD NOT FOLLOWED AN OPEN LINE IN PAST. A DIFFERENT RESPONSE AND A

DIFFERENT APPROACH COULD HAVE PRODUCED A POSITIVE REACTION  
IN WORLD OPINION AND AVOIDED ANOTHER BLOT ON URUGUAY'S RECORD.  
ROVIRA AGAIN PROCLAIMED GOU'S INABILITY TO SPEAK OUT ON  
TAVARES CASE AND EXPRESSED BITTERNESS AT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /030 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4533

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4018

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TWO FACED POLICY AND THE DISTORTED IMAGE OF URUGUAY CREATED IN  
THE MEXICAN PRESS. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS  
BE CONTINUED AT LATER LUNCH WITH MILITARY FIGURES AND CONCLUDED BY  
EXPRESSING HOPE THAT U.S. SHOULD NEVER FACE SAME TEST WHICH URUGUAY  
HAS FACED.

8. TODMAN THEN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SHIFT DISCUSSION TO PANAMA CANAL  
TREATY, DETAILING REASONS WHICH HAD LED USG TO SEEK SUCH A TREATY  
AND BENEFITS WHICH WE BELIEVE IT WILL BRING TO BOTH PARTIES. HE  
ALSO EXPLAINED MANNER IN WHICH HEMISPHERIC AND U.S. SECURITY INTEREST  
S  
ARE FULLY PROTECTED BY NEW TREATY. TOUCHING ON NEED TO CONVINCE  
AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT TREATY IS CORRECT AND IN OUR INTERESTS, HE STATE  
D  
THAT AN EXPRESSION OF APPROVAL OR SUPPORT OF THE SUCCESSFUL TREATY  
NEGOTIATIONS BY GOU WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY OUR GOVERNMENT. HE  
SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE BEST CONVEYED BY THE URUGUAY  
AN  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS ITS IMPACT IN THE U.S. WOULD BE GREATER  
THROUGH THAT CHANNEL. IN RESPONSE, ROVIRA RECOGNIZED CANAL PROBLEM  
TO BE A DIFFICULT ONE AND EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO HELP.

9. TODMAN THEN NOTED THAT SEVERAL KEY ISSUES HAD NOT BEEN RAISED  
AND INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO, OR CLARIFY, ANY QUESTION  
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REGARDING OUR CUBA POSITION OR LAW OF THE SEAS MATTERS. IT WAS AGREED TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS DURING THE LUNCHEON.

10. PEZZULLO THEN RETURNED CONVERSATION TO NECESSITY FOR URUGUAY TO INVITE IN, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, EITHER THE IAHC OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATION, NOTING THAT WITHOUT AN OUTSIDE JUDGEMENT, EVEN IF SOMEWHAT POLITICAL, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO CHANGE THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION. SOME NEUTRAL PARTY MUST STATE THAT FACTS ARE THUS AND SO.

11. AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ RESPONDED WITH REITERATION OF GOU'S OBJECTIONS TO CURRENT STRUCTURE OF IAHC AND CLAIMED THAT ORGANIZATION MUST ADOPT ANOTHER FOCUS, STICK TO ITS STATUTES, AND JUDGE ALL COUNTRIES EQUALLY. TODMAN THEN NOTED THAT USG HAS SOUGHT TO HAVE IAHC VISIT ALL COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THAT WE, OURSELVES, WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A VISIT. TODMAN CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT IN IMPERFECT WORLD WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THESE MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

PEZZULLO

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## Message Attributes

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